[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [

Private delicts include trespass, that is, leaving an outsider's land to the town; theft, or unauthorized appropriation of other things in general; murder; adultery; and assault. There are offences for which compensation is payable, or for which a man may kill the offender, e.g. for theft, though it is then at his own risk any compensation for murder. Offences which concern tribal elsewhere are dealt with by the clan council. Offences come within the province of the town council, which may act in both cases, and both at council times, but only where there was a definite reason. Thus a person had some feelings which caused the calling of a council, he told the householder who passed such report the town that people should assemble on a certain day. If, for example, a man had been robbed of a heavy sword, and knew who had stolen it, he would put the matter before the council, partly to decide on the amount of compensation, for the amount might vary according to the thief's circumstances, and partly to have public opinion behind him when he collected the debt for payment. I believe that on the whole theft among the Ibadan themselves was not very common, and certain kinds of theft are regarded by them as so mean that a man must be very depraved indeed who will commit them. Besides, in a small town where members feel that outside their own circle every man's hand is against them, and to whom a stranger is a potential enemy until proved a friend, the need for unity and absence of friction is overwhelming if they are to survive. I certainly heard of no cases of theft during the period of my investigations.

We may now pass on to describe some of the traditional measures taken against offenders.

Incest. Incest means intercourse between a man and a woman of the clan (that is, one whom he calls by a relationship term), and a chief crime. We have already described the punishment for this (see above, p. 107), which is the first case is carried out with the approval of the town council, and in the second, under the authority of the clan council.

Killing a Member. When a man killed a member belonging to another clan, the council of the dead man's clan met to discuss the amount of compensation that was to be paid (*gan*), and then sent word to the council of the murderer's clan. This meant that the offence had been recognized, and that action must be taken. The council of the murderer's head then assembled so that arrangements for payment could be made and became known to everybody. The murderer also had to be purified, in the same way as when the victim was a clansman. The head council then met again to discuss the amount of the compensation. This, it seems, was usually collected at nine head of cattle (male or female), though it is doubtful if the full number was ever collected *, and if the murderer was a poor man with

* The number nine is probably due to imitation of the Yoruba procedure, where nine is the amount payable as compensation for homicide.